MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

Iraq-Iran Conflict

Baghdad Warning to U.S.--A station commentary carried by Baghdad radio's Voice of the Masses said it is "astonishing" that the United States has called on the nations of the world to be neutral in the Iraq-Iran war while at the same time maintaining that it is "entitled" to "interfere" and "settle matters" in the gulf and "draw up the area's future map" in accordance with its own interests. The commentary said that the United States has "learned nothing" from its relations with the Arab states and that it should realize that Iraq, which is currently putting an end to Iranian "designs" on the region, "cannot stand idly by in the face of other forms of foreign intervention," especially that of "U.S. imperialism and its allies." It pointedly warned that Iraq's "striking arm" is "capable of drowning any attempt at foreign military intervention, particularly U.S. intervention," in the gulf, and it repeated President Saddam Husayn's statement that the Gulf's oil is "capable of burning all foreign interests and forms of intervention without exception." The commentary concluded by saying that the United States cannot conceal its "military activity biased against Iraq" through "slogans, calls and claims of neutrality."

Military Situation--In interviews with Tehran radio, President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr said there had been "no major changes" in the front encompassing Qasr-e Shirin, Sar-e Pol-e Zahab and Gilan-e Gharb but that both armies have brought in "fresh forces" and Iranian troops have recaptured the heights overlooking Sar-e Pol-e Zahab. The president also reported no significant movement in the area of Dezful and Minukhosh. He said that Iranian forces have launched an offensive outside of Ahvaz under the command of former Defense Minister Mostafa Chamran after having "gained new positions" along a 40-km front, but he gave no details of the attack. The president also reported "progress" in the battle around Khorramshahr, claiming that an enemy commando attack has been repulsed and the Iraqis have been pushed back to Shalamcheh. Summing up the military situation, he declared: "We are entering the final phase of the war."

Answering a question concerning the return to the armed forces of people who had previously been purged, Bani-Sadr said that those willing to engage in "self-sacrifice" should be allowed to "come forward" but that so far only about 100 military men in this category, including "a few" pilots, have returned to duty.

According to INA, the commander of Iraq's Nasr forces operating in the Dezful area said that Dezful is "militarily under our control," thus reiterating an Iraqi statement of several days' standing. INA emphasized that Iraq has never claimed the "complete occupation" of the town, and it demanded that AFP's Arabic service retract a story to that effect, saying that no other news agency "committed the same mistake." INA declared that its reports on the war are always based on official statements issued by the Iraqi General Command. In further comments to INA, the commander of the Nasr forces in the Dezful area said that the Iranians have begun to use helicopters to attack his advanced units but that the ground defenses have been able to pick them off "one after the other." He also reported that aircraft recently downed in the area were newly acquired by Iran, confirming, he said, that Iran is still receiving military equipment from its "supporters."

In communiques carried by Voice of the Masses, the Iraqi General Command reported no major ground initiatives or setbacks, but they said that Iranian planes attacked residential areas in Irbil, Mosul, Kirkuk, Al-Musharrah, Al-'Amadiyah and 'Ali al-Gharbi. The only Iraqi air attack reported was a raid on a "big factory" in the Ahvaz sector.

Tehran radio reported that the navy's deputy commander, after a meeting with Ayatollah Khomeyni, said the Iranian Navy controls the "entire Persian Gulf region." He assured reporters that the Strait of Hormuz is open and that there is "no cause for concern" for oil tankers and cargo ships, except those belonging to Iraq.

According to Jerusalem television, Libya is supplying military equipment to Iran in supply flights from Tripoli to Tehran which cross Greece, Bulgaria and the Soviet Union. The Jerusalem report also said that Syria is providing Iran Soviet military equipment, including SA-7 surface-to-air missiles, Sagger antitank missiles and RPG-7 bazookas. Jerusalem radio's military correspondent reported that the Soviet T-72 tank, of which Syria has a "substantial number," has been employed in the Iraqi-Iran war.

Diplomatic Moves--According to Delhi radio, Iraqi special envoy Jasim Muhammad al-Khalaf told Prime Minister Indira Gandhi that Iraq would welcome an Indian "initiative" to resolve the conflict. The Indian prime minister replied that she would be willing to undertake such an effort but only with the agreement of both parties. Al-Khalaf is one of a number of envoys recently dispatched to various countries to convey the Iraqi position on the conflict.

In an 9 October interview with Tehran radio, Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i said Iran has also been active in the foreign policy sphere in regard to the war despite the "main problem" in the Foreign Affairs Ministry, the lack of a foreign minister. He said that all Iran's ambassadors have been told to state the country's case to their host governments and that Iran will send representatives to attend both the UN General Assembly and Security Council sessions. Raja'i also disclosed that Iran will dispatch a "high-ranking delegation" in the near future to "revolutionary and Muslim countries" to explain the Iranian position.

Libya-Iran

In a cable to the Saudi king, the president of the UAE and the amirs of the gulf states, carried by Tripoli radio's Voice of the Arab Homeland, Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi expressed "anxiety" over the U.S. military "advance" in the gulf and claimed that the United States "wants to colonize the Arab world" and that, in this connection, it "has joined with the Zionist enemy with the objective of ending the independence of the Arab homeland." Regarding Iran, Al-Qadhdhafi declared that it is an "Islamic duty for us to be allied with the Muslims of Iran in this confrontation in order to face the crusade instead of fighting them in place of America." The message made no mention of Iraq.

Syria

Damascus radio reported that the Syrian-Soviet talks in Moscow ended with a closed meeting between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Leonid Brezhnev on 9 October. The radio also said that Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam met with his Soviet counterpart, Andrey Gromyko, earlier in the day. TASS reported that the Syrian delegation left Moscow for home on 10 October and was seen off by Leonid Brezhnev, Nikolay Tikhonov, Andrey Gromyko and other officials.

Israel

According to Jerusalem radio, Prime Minister Menahem Begin called the Syria-USSR treaty a "serious development" made graver by the fact that Israel has "grounds" to believe that the two countries have signed a "secret treaty" as well. Begin said that Israel will "soon" hold consultations with the United States on this matter and that he will raise the subject with President Carter when he visits Washington next month. Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Tzipori, commenting to Jerusalem radio on the ramifications of the treaty, said there is no doubt that the more powerful the Soviet Union becomes in the Middle East, the more Israel's "value" to the West increases.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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KHAWIANI-LED PARTY DELEGATION LEAVES FOR USSR

LD081504 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 08 Oct 80

[Text] Najmoddin Khawiani, member of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee and chairman of the Organization Committee of the Central Committee, is heading a party delegation on a friendly visit to the USSR at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee. The delegation left for the USSR today.

DEPUTY COMMERCE MINISTER LEAVES FOR MOSCOW

GF081502 Kabul in Urdu to South Asia 1330 GMT 8 Oct 80

[Text] Deputy Commerce Minister 'Abdolsalam left for Moscow today at the invitation of the USSR Central Union of Consumer Cooperatives to hold talks on the expansion of relations between cooperative societies handling consumer goods in the two countries.

MINES, INDUSTRY MINISTER LEAVES FOR CSSR

GF081443 Kabul in Urdu to South Asia 1330 GMT 8 Oct 80

[Text] Engineer Mohammad Esma'il Danesh, minister of mines and industry, left for a friendly and official tour of the CSSR today at the invitation of the Czechoslovak minister of fuels and power. The mines and industry minister will visit power and mines complexes and hold talks on the expansion of cooperation between the two countries in the field of mines and industry. An agreement may also be signed.

KESHTMAND DESCRIBES ROLE OF WRITERS IN AFGHAN SOCIETY

For a Moscow IZVESTIYA report of an interview by correspondent M. Ilinskiy with Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Politburo, deputy chairman of the Revolution Council and deputy prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA], pegged to the opening of the inaugural congress of the DRA Writers' Union, see the South Asia section of the 8 October Soviet Union DAILY REPORT.

OIL PROSPECTING AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH USSR

LD092122 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 9 Oct 80

[Text] A contract for the purchase and receipt of equipment and the necessary material for drilling in the northern oil and gas project of the Afghan General Department of National Oil, costing rl3.76 million, was signed and the necessary documents were exchanged this afternoon between the Ministry of Mines and Industries and the economic consulate of the USSR Embassy in Kabul. The contract was signed by engineer 'Abdol (Qate) Rasuli, deputy minister of mines at the Ministry of Mines and Industries, and (Anatoliy Shagonov), USSR economic consul in Kabul.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reports that on the basis of this contract--which will utilize the credit of the friendly country, the USSR--equipment, tools and the necessary material for drilling will be provided for the Afghan side within 3 months of the date of the signing of the contract and will arrive through Hairatan port. The signing of the contract was attended by some of the staff of the Ministry of Mines and Industries and some of the personnel of the economic consulate of the USSR Embassy.

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES ARRESTS OF REBELS IN PROVINCES

Badakhshan: Hundreds Arrested

LD081900 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 8 Oct 80

[Text] A large band of criminals in the village of Awtaq in Derwaz District of Badakhshan Province were eliminated yesterday by party activists and Groups for the Defense of the Revolution, and hundreds of them were arrested. A source in the sarandoy [specially trained police] command force of that province said that these murderers and (?highway robbers), who by armed force and terrorism were disturbing the peace of the toiling villagers of that area seized a large amount of various arms of American and Chinese manufacture, with thousands of rounds of ammunition in the possession of those professional murderers and servants of American imperialism.

Ghowr Rebels Surrender

LD081906 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 8 Oct 80

[Text] A number of villagers in Ghowr Province who were deceived by the enemies of the revolution have repented their past actions and surrendered themselves and their arms to the authorities of Ghowr Province. Condemning the actions of anti-revolutionary elements, they promised that they are ready with full trust in the sincerity of our nation and progressive government to fight to the last breath in the ranks of our soldier brothers against the enemies of the revolution and our national government. They promised to fulfill our historic mission in working for the realization of the aims of the Sawr Revolution.

Faryab, Qonduz Arrests

LD091742 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 9 Oct 80

[Text] A group of rebels who were engaging in murder, looting and terrorism and were thus disturbing the calm atmosphere of Andkhvoy District in Faryab Province have recently been arrested by armed forces and party activists, with the active cooperation of the people of that area, and have confessed their crimes. A source of that district said that various American and Chinese arms, explosives and printed pamphlets were seized from these servants of American imperialism, whose polluted hands are soiled with the blood of our toiling compatriots. The source added that further investigation is continuing concerning the traitors and murderers. According to a report from Qonduz Province, Ghulam Sakhi, a resident of (Goltapha) in Qonduz Province, and Zahirullah Khan, a resident of the district of Zal, who are connected with the counterrevolutionary bands and who disguised themselves in women's clothing in an attempt to escape from the armed forces of that area, have recently been arrested in Qonduz and Baghlan Provinces. These murderers are undergoing serious interrogation in Qonduz Province.

Qonduz Political Prisoners Released

LD091656 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 9 Oct 80

[Text] Eighty-four political prisoners of Qonduz Province were released yesterday from the jail of that province. At a ceremony attended by a large number of party cadres, government officials, a number of people of Qonduz city and relatives of the political prisoners, an official of the provincial government explained the objectives of the Sawr Revolution in its new development stage. In return, one of the political prisoners, expressing appreciation of the humanitarian steps of the party and the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan Government in releasing them, on behalf of the political prisoners expressed readiness to undertake all kinds of sacrifices in fulfilling the objectives of the Sawr Revolution and the prosperity of beloved Afghanistan.

IRAQI PRESIDENTIAL ENVOY ARRIVES IN DACCA FOR TALKS

BK100943 Dacca Domestic Service in English 0835 GMT 10 Oct 80

[Text] Iraqi Minister for Higher Education Jasim Muhammad al-Khalaf arrived in Dacca today as a special envoy of President Saddam Husayn. Al-Khalaf is carrying a personal message from President Saddam Husayn for President Zia. His mission is part of an Iraqi plan to send envoys to various countries in an effort to halt the current Iran-Iraq conflict.

As already reported, Iraq has also sent (?five) such envoys to Turkey, India, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Greece with a special message from the Iraqi president. Meanwhile, Iran says it is sending [words indistinct] to explain its position over the conflict.

Iran also plans to take its case to the UN Security Council.

COMMERCE MINISTER, INDIAN COUNTERPART WELCOME NEW TRADE AGREEMENT

BK051024 Dacca Overseas Service in English 0445 GMT 5 Oct 80

[Text] Minister of State for Commerce Chowdhury Tanzir Ahmed Siddiqui has said that the new trade agreement signed between Bangladesh and India will go a long way in promoting further bilateral trade by providing an institutional framework of cooperation in the commercial field. Speaking at a dinner hosted by him in honor of visiting Indian Minister for Commerce Pranab Kumar Mukherjee in Dacca last night, he noted with satisfaction the present growth of trade between the two neighboring countries. He said there will be (?exploratory) talks for further development and diversification of bilateral trade.

In his reply the Indian Commerce Minister maintained that Bangladesh and India should be the most natural trading partners in view of the advantages of most competitiveness of prices, supply and economic benefits of the cost of production. He said the new trade agreement in symbolic of our sincere desire to expand and diversify trade between the two countries.

GUINEA PRESIDENT TO VISIT 12-15 OCT

BK100052 Dacca Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 9 Oct 80

[Text] President Ahmed Sekou Toure of the Republic of Guinea arrives in Dacca on Sunday [12 October] on a 3-day state visit to Bangladesh at the invitation of President Ziaur Rahman.

A Foreign Office spokesman said in Dacca tonight that the two presidents will discuss matters of mutual interests, both bilateral and international, with particular focus on the Middle East and Jerusalem situation. President Sekou Toure will be accompanied by six ministers including the foreign and defense ministers of Guinea.

BRIEFS

NATIONAL DAY DECLARATION--The Council of Ministers, which met in Dacca on 3 October under the chairmanship of President Ziaur Rahman, has decided to declare 26 March as the national day of Bangladesh. [Dacca Domestic Service in English 1205 GMT 3 Oct 80 BK]

IRAQ REQUESTS DELHI MEDIATION IN WAR WITH IRAN

BK091556 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 Oct 80

[Text] Iraqi special envoy Jasim Muhammad al-Khalaf, who met Mrs Gandhi in New Delhi today, is understood to have said that his country would welcome an initiative by India to resolve its conflict with Iran. He felt India is in a position to do so because of its friendly relations with both the countries.

Mrs Gandhi told him that while India would be glad to be of help, any effort to this nature would require the agreement of both the parties. She expressed her distress and concern over the conflict and said it should not be allowed to escalate. The conflict should not bring about the involvement of other powers, especially superpowers. India would like the conflict to be resolved at the earliest through peaceful means. The envoy, who is Iraq's minister for higher education, delivered to Mrs Gandhi a letter from President Saddam Husayn when he met her this evening.

INDIANS FLEE KHORRAMSHAHR FIGHTING TO BASRA

BK091617 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1538 GMT 9 Oct 80

[Text] Indian Ambassador in Baghdad Peter Sinai has described as totally baseless a Monte Carlo radio report that Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi has asked Indians in Iraq to leave the country because of the war. He said arrangement have been made for the departure of only 2,000 Indian citizens out of 20,000; most of them want to remain there, he added.

An agency report says about 90 Indian citizens arrived in the Iraqi port of Basra this morning from Khorramshahr where severe fighting is going on. They crossed the estuary in small boats and by swimming dodging the shells that fell all around. Information is awaited in New Delhi regarding 36 Indian seamen on board an Indian liner and two Iranian ships in the Khorramshahr waters. A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said today that only one Indian ship named (Vijay Awtar) was in the region; it had a crew of 34. The last contact with the ship was established on Saturday [5 October]. He said five seamen from the ship had reached Basra, but there is no news about the others.

TANZANIA'S SOKOINE, GANDHI EXPRESS CONCERN OVER IRAN-IRAQ WAR

BK091615 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 Oct 80

[Text] Tanzanian Prime Minister Edward Sokoine and Mrs Indira Gandhi today expressed concern at the conflict between Iran and Iraq. Mr Sokoine is on a private visit to India. Both the leaders expressed the hope that the two countries will be able to resolve their problems peacefully. They also had a detailed exchange views on various international and bilateral subjects including the nonaligned movement. Mrs Gandhi told him that India looks forward to the visit of Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere early next year.

MEXICAN PRESIDENT TO VISIT IN JANUARY

BK100856 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 10 Oct 80

[Text] Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo will pay an official visit to India in January next year. Announcing this at a meeting of Indian ambassadors of Latin America in Mexico City External Affairs Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao said President Portillo will be the guest of honor at the Republic Day parade [26 January] in New Delhi.

SRI LANKA

TRADE MINISTER VISITS USSR, SPEAKS ON FRIENDLY RELATIONS

BK031111 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 3 Oct 80

[Text] Minister of Trade and Shipping Lalith Athulathmudali has stressed the commitment of Sri Lanka for peace at television press conference in Georgia and in an address to the Sri Lankan students at the Lumumba University.

Referring to friendly relations between the Soviet Union and Sri Lanka, the minister observed that there were many common aims in international affairs. Athulathmudali, who led a parliamentary delegation, visited collective farms development projects and also had discussions with the ministers of shipping and education and the chairman of the Supreme Soviet.

At a function held at the friendship halls, the first Soviet ambassador to Sri Lanka, Yakovlev, referred more than 40 branches in the republics and cities and acquainted their people with culture of the Sri Lankan people [sentence as heard]. He welcomed the progress in Sri Lanka.

JOINT SHIPPING SERVICE TO BE OPERATED WITH PRC

BK081100 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 9 Oct 80

[Text] A Sri Lanka-China joint shipping service is to be inaugurated shortly. The Ministry of Trade and Shipping has said that all formalities have now been completed. The new service will operate between Colombo and the West Coast of Africa and is expected to boost Sri Lanka's export trade.

The Chinese national shipping line has about 500 vessels. The Ceylon Shipping Corporation operates eight cargo vessels in addition to two container vessels that were taken on hire. Recently, the Cabinet approved the floating of a Euro-dollar loan for the purchase of additional ships for the corporation.

BRIEFS

PRC AIDS SRI LANKAN PORTS--China has agreed to provide assistance for the country's port development program. Accordingly, China will provide long-term financial assistance for the modernization of Colombo, Tricomalee and Galle harbours. These activities have been undertaken by the China Harbor Engineering Corporation. This followed a discussion held by a Sri Lanka delegation led by the additional secretary, Ministry of Trade and Shipping, with the Chinese transport minister recently. [Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 7 Oct 80 BK]

GREEK AMBASSADOR IN KATMANDU--Ambassador designate of Greece to Nepal Dimitri Manolatos arrived in Katmandu on 23 September, reports RSS. [Katmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 24 Sep 80 p 1 BK]

SOVIET AID TO NEPAL--Soviet Ambassador Abdul-Rakhman Velirov handed over to Chairman of Nepal Red Cross Society Central Committee Her Royal Highness Princess Shah medicines worth 25,000 rupees presented to it by the Soviet Red Cross at the Red Cross central office on 8 October. According to the Nepal Red Cross, the medicines will soon be sent to the earthquake-ravaged areas. [Text] [Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 8 Oct 80 BK]

USSR OIL TO NEPAL--Nepal oil corporation is to import 120,000 tons of diesel worth about 440 million rupees from the Soviet Union's oil exporting corporation during the next 2 years. Letters to this effect was signed in Katmandu on 8 October by general manager (Subodh Vikram Thapa) and [word indistinct] export vice president (U.N. Kornilov). [Text] [Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 8 Oct 80 BK]

BANI-SADR INTERVIEWED ON WAR WITH IRAQ

LD091510 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1148 GMT 9 Oct 80

[Interview with Iranian President Bani-Sadr by unidentified radio reporter, time and place not given--recorded]

[Text] [Question] Mr President, could you please tell us what are the latest developments at the fronts?

[Answer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. In Qasr-e Shirin and Sar-e Pol-e Zahab and Gilan-e Gharb region, the situation is better than yesterday. Of course, there has not been any major change but it is better than yesterday and we have brought in fresh forces to that area. Of course, the enemy has also brought fresh forces to that area; but, the situation (?is like this):

Dezful area and Minukhosh: Again in this area there have not been any major changes, except the firing of missiles against the town of [word indistinct] and the response made by the army and the artillery.

Then we go to the Ahvaz region. Yesterday our forces advanced to a depth of 10 kilometers along a 40 kilometer width having thus gained new positions. From this morning the artillery has been busy at work.

Then we go to Khorramshahr region. Our forces pushed them back to behind the (Horizeh) bridge and from there they have beaten them back up to Shalamcheh. Therefore, in that region they have almost (?kicked them out). So far there has been progress.

Our forces are getting ready and we are entering the final phase of the war.

[Question] It was decided that the operations performed by our air force in the enemy territory should be brought to the notice of the people but, unfortunately, the Joint Staff has done nothing in this respect.

[Answer] They have told lies [as heard]. Their lie consists in the fact that air operations are different from ground operations. During air operations, in one round they should hit a place. In another round, according to what you say, they should prepare a report to decide what has been the result of the strike and 24 hours later we can carefully assess what has ahppened during the day's strike. Because we do not want to give false reports to the people, [words indistinct]. During the ground operations the results are immediately known. In air force operations they should go later to find out what the outcome has been. This morning, when the commander of the air force was reporting to me, he said that they have hit at the enemy columns which were on the move within Iraq. They dealt heavy blows at the Kirkuk base and hit a number of other places and that he will bring the precise report at lunchtime and deliver it to me.

[Question] Despite the good morale which all our people enjoy, one of the things which bothers our people are contradictory reports which they receive about the front either from our own people or through foreign radios. This has made people very uneasy. What are your views concerning this matter?

[Answer] I have said this many times. Don't listen to these reports. You should receive the report about the patient from his doctor; but when I am not a doctor as soon as I see that there is the slightest change on his face I say alas, I have lost my child.

However, when the doctor sees the same thing he says this is a sign of recovery. You see? Yesterday afternoon they were quoting Mr Khamene'i--now whether it was direct or indirect, I cannot remember--Hajj Aqa Ahmad Aqa [Khomeyni's son] was also sitting there; the report came that Ahvaz is finished. The city has been surrounded and it is finished and we are going to [word indistinct]. Later, I immediately got in touch with the army commander there. He said, no, we have advanced. They heard the sound of our own artillery and thought that it belonged to the enemy, because they did not know that we had set up the artillery there. The artillery had fired and as they did not know that this was our own artillery they thought that the Iraqis had come close to Ahvaz. We then learned that no, they have been pushed back. When people do not have any military expertise they hear a sound and say O!--it is easy for the Iraqis who can fire a few artillery shells from a long distance and flee--but those who do not know about military matters say O! they are only one step away from Ahvaz while the Iranian forces do the same thing against the other side, and they also fire against their cities and, probably, those who are there also say the same thing to each other. This is called psychological warfare, but we should not engage in psychological warfare against ourselves. We should ask the experts for correct and accurate reports. Four times we received such reports. We are not experts but we knew this much--that we had to ask the experts. Our nerves are strong; otherwise, we should have gone mad by now because we receive many contradictory reports.

[Question] As the commander in chief of the armed forces are you generally satisfied with everything which has been done and about the general condition of the fronts at the moment? What is the condition like?

[Answer] To say that I am satisfied with everything, no. A war is always like this, a human war. We do not have divine knowledge to make whatever we do right. However, we make use of the methods which the Koran has taught us as much as we can.

[Words indistinct] is a dictatorial regime. Naturally, there the people cannot convey the truth from lower to higher ranks. So they spread a rumour. [sentence indistinct] For instance, they say that this and that has taken place. They say the lies first so that if they come to pass [words indistinct]. Our major support comes from the stupidity of our enemy. The Koran has also said about the pharoah that there is a shortcoming in their work that an intelligent man can make use of. Of course, there are some shortcomings in our work, too. Nothing is perfect. Man cannot achieve perfection. However, I have told our commanders that I prefer that they commit treason rather than act foolishly and lie. Thanks to God, they are capable and are not treacherous and they are not frightened either and come and tell the truth. If there are any shortcomings they come and tell us. For instance, if they say there is nothing in the sky of Tehran. [as heard] I have enough knowledge. It is not necessary for the military to tell us; I understand that there must be some defects if they are able to come this far. Now, if they say, now, it is nothing, we go there [to Iraq] as well. [sentence as heard]

All this is correct, but we should eliminate our deficiencies. Yesterday, we sent a military delegation (?to go to the front). There are certain defects which, God willing, we will eliminate. It is possible that the defects may remain and that the Iraqi planes may come again; and we will repel them again.

[Question] There are some miscellaneous reports that some of those who had been previously purged have now resumed their work. What is the truth of these reports and what do you think of the capability of these people?

[Answer] Right now, the imam also said that some of those who are willing to show self-sacrifice should be allowed to come forward. We have done this before, but there are no more than 100 of them. There are also a few pilots among them. This is a sphere for self-sacrifice. Now is not the time for compliments. A person who has been unclean will naturally not show self-sacrifice. We should do two things together. The first thing is that those who are prepared for self-sacrifice should be told that fighting is a meritorious deed; Jihad is one of the meritorious deeds. Come forward, if you have fought--not if you were behind the front engaged in paper-work and say we are ready for self-sacrifice--no, if you go to the front and if you fight you will be cleansed [words indistinct], you will become like Hor [an early Islamic hero], like Hor in Karbala' [where the battle between Imam Husayn and Yazid's army took place]. If he is martyred he has won. Some of them have come forward and have been martyred and we shop that God will regard them like Hor. They should also set up a wartime court so that if someone runs away from the battlefield, he should be dealt with according to Islamic regulations and should be sentenced to execution and dealt with.

Some people show laziness. This situation is different. The time for true purging is here. These people should be expelled. On the one hand, they should be encouraged to show self-sacrifice; on the other hand, there should be punishment for those who run away from the war or who show slackness.

[Question] You know that a number of students of religious seminaries have been sent to the fronts and we have heard that a number of them also been martyred. Can they really be effective?

[Answer] Last time I also said that their effectiveness lies in the fact that war depends on morale and belief. Their very presence has this effect that there will be no weakness in the morale and in faith. God willing, they will be very useful.

[Question] My last question is about the report that you gave to the imam. Do you have anything special to say in this connection?

[Answer] The imam was well and we told him about the war situation. His view that we should make use of everything at our disposal. We should put aside futile talk and make use of all the facilities, so that, God willing, the Iraqi people may get rid of their regime.

BANI-SADR REASSURES AHVAZ ON EXPLOSIONS, GUNFIRE

LD091816 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1715 GMT 9 Oct 80

[Unscheduled Broadcast]

[Text] Dear listeners, President and Commander in Chief Dr Bani-Sadr has made a statement in connection with today's surface explosions in Ahvaz. The statement was just made, ready to be broadcast. You will now hear it:

[Begin recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The reason which led me to say a few words tonight to my dear compatriots was a report sent by the Ahvaz division commander that sounds of exploding mines are heard and that shooting is taking place. The thing is that there are two types of ammunition dumps.

There is the surface ammunition dump, which is smaller, and there is the underground dump, which is extensive. (?It seems) there has been an explosion. There has been no means to inform the people about the explosion and this has caused anxiety among the people of Ahvaz and other areas where the sound of the explosion is heard.

This is an everyday event, occuring quite often; as our own forces are causing similar explosions in Iraqi territory. This is not an important matter as it has not caused any damage to the town as pointed out by military experts.

People should not become apprehensive. Moreover, there are certain other reports from battlefields which all point to good news, thank God. As I have been told, the heights overlooking Sar-e Pol-e Zahab garrison have been recaptured by our forces, and the enemy--who was doing his best to reach those heights--has become frustraded. In Gilan-e Gharb the situation is stable. The same thing applies to Dezful. In Ahvaz area, our artillery and forces today shelled the enemy positions. Furthermore, the forces, organized during this period under Dr Chamran, this afternoon launched an offensive. We hope the outcome of this offensive will be good.

As for the Khorramshahr area, today they brought in commandos, however, as our forces were lying in wait, they were crushed and forced to flee. Therefore, the situation in the battlefields is generally good. We hope that things will improve daily in the future so that this war, which was imposed on us, will culminate in defeat for the enemy.

As for the people in the area, obviously they are undergoing considerable difficulties; after all, it is true that there is a war. However, as they just telephoned me from a few towns in Khuzestan, the people's morale is strong, thank God; they are putting up with difficulties. God willing, when the dawn of victory arrives, they shall have their share of victory before others because victory comes to those regions before other places. As for the consequences of the war, they can be compensated. This young and hard-working generation will soon begin reconstruction and will soon eliminate the traces of war, God willing. I wish a good night to all of you. [end recording]

BANI-SADR, BEHESHTI, JUDICIARY DISCUSS SITUATION 9 OCT

JN100708 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 10 Oct 80

[Text] Ayatollah Dr Beheshti, president of the Supreme Court, and the members of the higher judiciary committee yesterday met with Dr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces. During the meeting, which lasted several hours, the discussion dealt with an exchange of viewpoints on domestic affairs and coordination between the executive and judicial powers.

At the end of the meeting, Dr Beheshti said that the discussion dealt with the progress achieved so far on the battlefronts, progress which is reassuring and calls for optimism. He added that the valor shown by our cherished fighters of the army, air force, navy, airborne forces, Islamic Revolution guards and the volunteers demonstrates the prominent role which the imam is playing in the lives of individuals. We hope that with our fighters' high morale we will score major and decisive victories.

RAJA'I COMMENTS ON WAR, HOSTAGES, RELATIONS WITH JAPAN

LD091322 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1102 GMT 9 Oct 80

[Text] Mr Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i, the prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in an interview with a correspondent of Japanese NTB television, has answered questions regarding some of the country's problems and difficulties, including Iraq's war against Iran and the issue of oil and relations with Japan.

In answer to a question on how long the Iraqi war against Iran would last and Iran's conditions for a cease-fire, the prime minister said: In principle one cannot predict the duration of a war. As this war was launched unilaterally by Iraq without any justification, we cannot predict its duration. Every day that passes in the war Saddam finds himself more unsuccessful and resorts to more violent antihuman activities. For this reason, it is difficult for us to predict the duration of the war as long as this madness continues, for after the bombing attacks that Saddam has carried out by aircraft and tanks against our residential areas, he has recently resorted to yet another insane action--the use of ground-to-ground missiles, eight of which were launched against Dezful last night causing destruction to many homes and death and injury to many of our compatriots.

In another part of his interview, the prime minister, referring to antihuman measures perpetrated by Saddam, said: In my view, putting this traitorous element in his place depends upon the degree to which the world pays attention to this barbaric development. We rely upon our own people and our armed forces to end this upheaval as expeditiously as possible.

In answer to a question as to his view of what the Iraqis' main objective and purpose was in the war against Iran, the prime minister said: We do not use the term Iraq because the Iraqi people themselves have no desire for such a war. So it would be better for us only to refer to Saddam.

He added: Following Iran's Islamic Revolution Saddam has seen his political and social existence in increasing decline. Thus, in order to save himself from this decline leading to his fall, he has resorted to this devastating war.

He added: Another motive, which is the main motive of war for the Iraqi regime, and any other country that would engage in a war with Iran, lies in the fact that it considers its system as being threatened as a result of our Islamic Revolution. The deposed shah made our country dependent, and our Islamic Revolution is such that it will liberate us from any political, economic and military dependence. Any country that considers its interests as being threatened in this context, and any country that would seek to maintain the past colonialist relations, will wage a war against us. Iraq is one of them, for we see Saddam's motive in terms of America and many of the superpowers [as heard] whose arms are being used against our people these days.

In answer to a question as to whether he perceived any relationship between the war imposed by Iraq against Iran and the hostages, the prime minister said: America is in no way thinking of the hostages. Even if all of them were killed, America would not consider it important, for America is always seeking after its own interests, and it has used the hostages as an excuse to take any action. In this context one can recall the U.S. military attack on Tabas, where we observed how America was willing to get the hostages killed in order to safeguard its position. So, whenever America speaks of the release of the hostages, the first victims will be the hostages themselves.

Continuing his interview with the Japanese correspondent, the prime minister, answering a question regarding the country's economic situation, said: The problem of oil being our sole source of revenue will be solved, God willing. In addition to the fact that we also have other resources such as copper and lead mines, which can help us, we also have other resources such as large areas of land that can be cultivated and which, if the enemy allows us, would enable us to derive revenues similar to that from oil. Despite the fact that our installations have sustained damage in the war with Iraq, cutting our dependence on oil revenue is one of the programs of our revolution, and our government is now moving in that direction so as to be able to bring this dependence to a minimum.

The report says that, in conclusion, Mr Raja'i said about the Japanese nation: The Japanese nation is an active one with profound ties with our nation. This is something that my friends who have visited Japan have told me. If this is true, one can regard the Japanese Government as an economic superpower. We are one of the countries that has risen for its independence and freedom, and we need the type of industry that can make us self-reliant as far as possible. But we do not want this industry at the cost of independence. We shall make use of Japanese industry to the extent that it will not jeopardize our independence.

KHOMEYNI MEETS WITH BANI-SADR, COMMENTS ON WAR

LD091152 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1049 GMT 9 Oct 80

[Text] According to PARS, this morning Dr Seyyed Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, the president and commander in chief of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, was received by Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran. According to the report, Mr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, during the meeting, submitted the latest reports on our country's developments, particularly on the battle-fronts, to the imam of the nation. Afterward the president introduced a group of foreign correspondents to the imam.

One of the correspondents asked the imam: What do you think of the war and what are your views on this war and its future?

The imam said in reply: In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. First of all, we, following Islam, are always against war, and we would like to see peace and tranquillity prevail among all countries. But if a war is imposed upon us, everyone in our nation becomes a fighter and we counter with everything in our power even if all the superpowers are behind it [Iraq]. This is so because we regard martyrdom as a great blessing, and our nation also welcomes martyrdom with open arms. We are not afraid of war; we are ready for war, but we do not like to see war break out.

At present, the puppet and criminal Iraqi Government is attacking our cities and ordinary citizens. They also attacked Dezful last night and killed many people with their missiles. But we shall hit their military positions; the future of the war is with us. They will lose in this war. The Ba'thists, God willing, will go out of Iraq and an Islamic government will be left behind there. We shall defend ourselves with everything in our power and will rescue Iraq from these criminals who are servants of the superpowers. We are not afraid that superpowers might be supporting them. We hope that in the same way as we destroyed the deposed shah with our empty hands and cut off the hands of the superpowers from our country we will destroy this person [Saddam Husayn], who is more criminal than the exterminated shah, and liberate Iraq and the Iraqi nation, which is our brother, so that the country of Iraq and the nation itself can decide its own destiny--decide the government themselves.

We will be the winners of the war there is no doubt about it. Even if we assumed that we would be killed our nation is at war and it will welcome martyrdom wholeheartedly and with open arms. I hope that we will be with the all-blessed Almighty God, and that the all-blessed Almighty God will be with us, God willing.

According to the report, the imam of the nation stressed to the president, who was translating the imam's remarks for the foreign correspondents: Dispatch the reports to your countries as they really are.

The imam said: We in no way want you to be on our side. As you now see the country report it that way. Afterward the correspondents in response to the imam and the president, promised that they would do so and that they had come to Iran for that purpose.

MILITARY COMMANDERS MEET WITH KHOMEYNI 9 OCT

LD091148 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Oct 80

[Text] According to a PARS report, this morning Gen Valiollah Fallahi, the acting chief of the Joint Staff, and Col Javad Fakuri, the defense minister and commander of the Air Force of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Capt Qanraman Malekzadeh, deputy commander of Iran's Navy, were received by Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran. During the meeting, the commanders of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran briefed the imam on reports regarding the situation on the war fronts, and Imam Khomeyni communicated to them the necessary directives.

Deputy Navy Commander's Comments

LD091715 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1649 GMT 9 Oct 80

[Text] According to PARS, the deputy operational commander of the Islamic Republic's Navy stated after his meeting with the imam of the nation today: The issues raised in the course of the meeting with the imam concerned the battlefields and, in general, border waterways and borders as well as the future of this imposed war. The imam of the nation issued certain guidelines.

He added: As stated by the prime minister, the Strait of Hormuz is open; there is no cause for concern for oil tankers and cargo ships, with the exception of Iraqi ships.

The deputy operational commander of the navy, stating that the entire Persian Gulf region is under the full control of the Islamic Republic's Navy, and that the Iraqi Ba'thist regime has no sovereignty over this region, said: I declare that the entire region is in the hands of the combative Muslim forces and that these forces are mobile, pursuing the aggressive Iraqi ships in the region.

RAFSANJANI, DEPUTIES ADDRESS MAJLIS ON IRAQI AGGRESSION

LD092040 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 9 Oct 80

[Text] The Islamic Consultative Assembly of Iran, in its open session today, ratified the emergency bill concerning the recruitment of personnel for the mobilization center. At this meeting, which was presided over by the Majlis speaker, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi Rafsanjani, and which began with recitations from the holy Koran, several deputies commented on the Iraqi-Iran war.

The first deputy, who had been delegated by the committee of defense affairs and who had paid a visit to Khuzestan, presented the assembly with his report on this trip. He said: In this visit, the morale of the army personnel was very high. It was interesting to note that all the army personnel were prepared for martyrdom. Referring to the attack by the Iraqi forces against residential areas, the same deputy said: We are not occupiers or aggressors, and we will not do the same as the enemy has done. They have bombed our residential areas so that we would do the same and make the Iraqi people hate us. However, we will not embark on such an action.

Another deputy said: The world should know that confronting Iran would mean confronting the truth of the world and it would be like swimming up the stream. The world should know that we have stood so firm that the United States and its like, as well as the wretched Saddam Husayn, who merely represent the filthy oppressors, can never do anything.

Another deputy said: In the cowardly attacks by the Iraqi forces against the city of Dezful, the criminal United States has left another document behind which, if presented to the world people, would show that the United States has committed crimes which are no less than those that they committed in Vietnam.

At the same meeting the speaker of the assembly, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The world must not overlook the savage action of these late night attacks against these residential areas. Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani said: So far at least 60 bodies have been recovered from the debris. This cannot be justified by any logic. People are not treated like this in any war. I wonder why the nonaligned countries of the so-called United Nations Organization and the advocates of human rights are sitting so silently.

FAKURI INTERVIEWED ON WAR WITH IRAQ, U.S. ROLE

LD091134 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0133 GMT 9 Oct 80

[Interview With Iranian Defense Minister and Air Force Commander Colonel Fakuri by unidentified correspondent on 8 October, place not given--recorded]

[Text] [Question] We are with Colonel Fakuri, the commander of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran and our country's defense minister. We will ask him to give his views regarding the imposition of this war by Iraq in his capacity in the Defense Ministry.

[Answer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Greetings to the dear viewers, greetings to the combatants who are fighting in battlefields against blasphemy and falsehood, and greetings and salutations to the martyrs of the war. As for the analysis of the war to which you referred, there are four questions to be raised here: whom are we fighting; what is the reason for this war; in what position are we; and what is to be the future of the war.

Regarding the first question, that is, whom we are fighting: On the face of it it appears that we are fighting against Iraq. In fact and in essence, however, our war is against an order and system which have so far been prevailing and ruling in the world, with America as its standardbearer and its followers being some of the regimes in the region. Saddam Husayn's regime, being the most eloquent example of a tool for implementing the evil objectives of a system which crystallized in the United States has been assigned to implement U.S. objectives here.

As for the war's motive and cause, this should be sought precisely in terms of the nature of the Islamic Republic of Iran and of the development which is constantly expanding and growing across the region, which inherently negates and is opposed to inhuman and world-devouring systems and dependent regimes and which severely threatens the existence of these systems led by the United States. Our war is not for land, borders, political and economic issues; rather, the issues raised and the excuses used to commit the aggression are a cover to start the war and, as perceived internally by them, to destroy Iran's Islamic Republic. A number of hirelings, such as Shahpur Bakhtiar, have often declared that any regime would be better than the present Islamic one; that is precisely the fear of the United States and of the dependent regimes in the region of the growth of Islam and its movement. The principal cause and motive of the war lies in the movement that began with Iran's Islamic Revolution and is growing and expanding in the region--something which in the final stages will negate and destroy the regimes which depend upon the United States for their existence and which have a pro-American leaning.

As regards the situation we are in, one should, in answering this question, bear in mind two dimensions relating to the matter. One is the military dimension, which is [word indistinct] or secondary dimension, in my view, and the other is the main dimension, or that which concerns the substance of the matter. Regarding the military dimension, well, it has brought in a force and we have a force of our own and these two forces are at war in the classic manner. But what is important is not the military situation, rather it is our position vis-a-vis Iraq in terms of the nature of things. What decides destiny and will determine the outcome of the war lies in the conflict between the nature of things. Two types of the nature of things are facing each other and are struggling against one another. One exists within the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in the people who are engaged in the struggle, and the other exists in the Iraqi Army. What will determine the fate of the war. As I have said, lies in the conflict between these two characters. Iraq's character is [word indistinct]. As I have said, Iraq has no motive for engaging in war and aggression, except that it has risen against Islam and Islam's movement.

We are engaged in a war not because we want to win territories and carve an empire; we have never had such an intention and we have never engaged in anything of this kind. Iraq engaged in acts of aggression for a long time and we kept quiet in the hope that it might realize what it was doing. What we are fighting for has perhaps nothing to do with a piece of territory or a patch of border. What we are fighting for is the sake of the Islamic movement, for Islam itself and for the nature of Islam. When we look at the matter in this light we will realize that the Iraqi Army is based on a completely false character, that it has entered the war against Islam, that Iran's army and our fighting forces have a completely Islamic character and that they are fighting for the sake of Islam's existence and for the sake of continuing the Islamic movement. Since the Iraqi Army is based on a completely false character and we are based on a firmly correct character, what determines the fate of the war will no longer be the number of tanks and guns and aircraft and so forth. What determines the fate of the war is precisely the triumph of right over wrong. That is to say, in this war we will be assuredly victorious; and it is Iraq that will surely be destroyed.

As regards the future of this war, the war we are currently engaged in is part of an extremely extensive war which has started. Our war is not with Iraq; that is a partial war which has neither started in itself nor will it end in itself. As I explained to the viewers, our war concerns the conflict between the character of Islam's movement and the inherent character of the system which America epitomizes. Our war is over economic and political issues. Our war is a struggle between two systems: A system based on what is right and a system based on falsehood--Iran's Islamic movement, which began with the Islamic Revolution and which is growing and expanding, and a system which is trying to stop this movement at any cost. Thus, this is the general character and feature of the war.

This war will go on until the destruction of America, the system that America represents and the standardbearers of this system. These standardbearers are a number of the regimes in the region--regimes which have clearly manifested their character in this war, regimes which could not join hands and get together in the war with Israel. We can see, however, the manner in which they have joined hands in the war against Iran and how they are helping one another. Our war is with them. Our war is not between one army and another, it is not over political and economic issues, or, indeed, a military conflict. Our war is a struggle between the character of two systems. One system representing Islam, Islam's movement, and a system which is trying violently to prevent this movement because it regards the growth of Islam as tantamount to its destruction. It is a war between right and wrong. Wherever right enters wrong is exterminated. Thus, this war will continue until the destruction, as I have said, of the system which America represents and which has standardbearers such as Saddam Husayn and such like. The war with Iraq is a part of this war, this general war. This war will be surely concluded with the victory of the Islamic movement. What is at issue, however, is that this is an extensive war which will continue in a different way in a different form.

This struggle will continue until the world of Islam is cleansed of falsehood and blasphemy. In this war with Iraq the regime of Saddam Husayn will be destroyed, and not only Saddam Husayn's regime but also other regimes similar to that of Saddam Husayn. In fact, this war heralds the destruction of many of the regimes in the region.

[Question] Your Excellency Fakuri, in answer to the first question you referred to the great Satan, America, as the imam has described it, and its role in opposing our Islamic Revolution. As you are aware, it has been reported recently in the domestic press and particularly extensively in the foreign media that AWACS aircraft have been delivered to Saudi Arabia. We would like to ask you, as the commander of the air force, to explain to us the way this sort of aircraft operates, the destructive role of this system of aircraft and, if you regard it appropriate, what capabilities we have vis-a-vis these aircraft.

[Answer] As mentioned, our main war is against an order and system which is epitomized by America. In fact our main war is with America. In the course of its world-devouring history, America realized the fact, particularly in the Vietnam War, that it should not intervene directly. Rather, it must involve its followers and servants and agents, and move its arms from out of the sleeves of people such as Saddam. Obviously, it will not abandon its servants in this war and it will give them the maximum amount of help needed. One form this assistance takes is intelligence aid that it must give Iraq. It must maintain surveillance on the battlefronts, clashes, the disposition of forces and our movements and communicate the results to Iraq. Is it because we want to attack Saudi Arabia that the United States has sent four AWACS aircraft to that country? What point is there in us attacking Saudi Arabia? We neither need Saudi Arabian territory nor its oil, nor any part of its territory. We in no way have any intention of carving out an empire or of capturing Saudi Arabia. So this is a ludicrous excuse and it knows it, too, but it has no choice but to use this excuse.

Of course, America would not say it is bringing in AWACS to collect needed intelligence to convey to Iraq. Thus it uses the ridiculous cover of trying to defend Saudi Arabia and brings in four AWACS aircraft, and so it will use the AWACS and communicate to Iraq the necessary intelligence.

Thus, if we want to have a proper perception of this war, what sort of war iit is in character and, in the final stages and when it has reached its climax, what form the war will take, we should focus on the principle that, as I have said, our war is not one between two armies over issues such as territory, land and economic matters and such like, but it is a war between two systems. It is a war between Islam--as a system, as an order, as a movement, as a process and as a line of policy--and a system which is inherently in conflict with Islam and which cannot live alongside Islam and which cannot be in harmony with Islam. These two systems cannot coexist. Thus there is a war and a struggle between two systems, and since we are talking in terms of a struggle between two systems--two orders and two characters--consequently the classical stage of war between two armies is the initial, elementary phase of this struggle and war.

In the struggle between the two systems, what perpetuates the struggle--in the same way as the struggle has begun and has been led to victory [as heard]--is the force which actually brought about the movement in the first place. The force that brought about this movement and gave it perpetuity, and will continue to do so, lies with the people. Once we have got the localized and isolated phase behind us--namely the war between two armies--the main force that must struggle and will struggle in the final analysis is the people, who carry the burden of the Islamic movement upon their shoulders. Since, as I have said, the struggle is not between two armies but is between two systems, then, in the last analysis, it will be the people who will continue the struggle, and the struggle and war will take the form of a people's war and struggle--a form which may continue for years, for we recognize the war between two armies in the classical sense as being a very short-term and local war, and as such one that inherently cannot last very long.

That which will give this movement continuity to the final victory, however, is the struggle of the masses, the struggle of the people. Consequently, the perfected form of this war will be the people's struggle, and the war will be in the form of a people's war, in which, God willing, we shall be victorious as well.

IRAQ ACCUSED OF BOMBING HOSPITALS IN AHVAZ, ELSEWHERE

LD091818 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1745 GMT 9 Oct 80

[Communique No 142 of the security headquarters of the Interior Ministry]

[Text] The following statement has been placed with the Tehran security headquarters by the Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran:

In His exalted name. The Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran announced tonight that the Ba'thist Government of Iraq, which during the past few days has bombed and destroyed hospitals and charitable institutions of this association in Abadan and Khorramshahr, today has again revealed its inhumanity with the bombing of two hospitals and the martyring of a number of our compatriots in Ahvaz, and with these actions it has shown that, in addition to having acted in obvious violation of international principles and regulations of the Red Cross, it has made the bombing of hospitals in the battle zones of our country one of its first goals and has made them targets of its inhuman attacks.

The Red Crescent Society of Iran emphasizes that this association will inform the International Red Cross of the bombing of hospitals and charitable organizations by the mercenary regime of Iraq and will protest and complain about it.

The Red Crescent Society of Iran also announced that helicopters belonging to this association have been assigned during the past 3 days to evacuate those who have been wounded and injured by the war and those who have been lost without trace. [as heard]

[Signed] The Tehran security headquarters

TEHRAN RADIO URGES IRAQI KURDS TO REVOLT

JN092107 Tehran Domestic Service in Surani Kurdish 1730 GMT 9 Oct 80

[Station call]

[Text] In His exalted name; in the name of God, who supports the oppressed and destroys the traitors. World Muslims: Revolt; revolt against imperialism, world Zionism and the United States.

Iraqi Muslim people, revolt against Saddam at-Tikriti, the blasphemous; revolt in order to topple the atheist and criminal Ba'thist regime; revolt in order to crush the Saddam at-Tikriti regime, the agent of the United States; expel all Ba'thist spies.

Bold Iraqi Muslim revolutionaries: Continue your revolution and escalate your struggle against the Saddam at-Tikriti regime, the Mossad spy.

Iraqi Muslim nation, sons of the Tigris and the Euphrates: Revolt and expel the Mossad and English spies; remove the U.S. laws and replace them with Islamic laws all over Iraq.

Heroic, honorable Iraqi youth: Revolt and burn the black banners of Saddam at-Tikriti; hoist the banners of Islam in the land of Islam.

There is no doubt that victory is promised to the Muslims and the oppressed all over the world. The traitors and the oppressors will collapse. The triumph of Muslims is imminent. Proceed forward toward more victories.

OFFICIALS CITED ON ISSUE OF SOVIET NEUTRALITY

LD091123 Paris LE MONDE in French 9 Oct 80 pp 1, 3

[Eric Rouleau dispatch: "Iranians Divided on Soviet 'Support'"]

[Text] Tehran--Is the USSR neutral in the Iranian-Iraqi conflict? Is it continuing to supply arms to the Ba'thist regime in Baghdad? These are questions which the Iranians are debating passionately and which form the subject of conflicting official statements and violent press polemics, thereby bearing witness to the importance of this new political confrontation between opposing factions.

Indeed, depending on the reply which might be given to these questions, the Islamic Republic would be forced if not to choose its camp--"Neither East nor West" is an immutable principle here--at least to clearly define its foreign policy, its possible alliances and its war strategy. That would immediately alter the internal political balance of forces either in favor of those who advocate normalization with the United States or to the advantage of those who want cooperation with the USSR against "U.S. imperialism."

On the very day that President Bani-Sadr told us that, until he recieved evidence to the contrary, he tended to believe that the USSR had indeed stopped giving military aid to Iraq (LE MONDE 8 October). Defense Minister Col Javad Fakuri assured us that he has intelligence indicating that "Soviet soldiers are operating the surface-to-air missile launchers" at various Iraqi bases.

"We are sure from listening to military communications that the Russians are actively aiding Iraq," National Defense Council member Mostafa Chamran, who is now leading resistance in Khorramshahr port, asserted the next day. He added that the USSR, "hostile to the Islamic Revolution, is cooperating directly or indirectly with the United States" to overthrow the young republic.

Ayatollah Beheshti's Islamic Republic Party [IRP], which is the main government force, reflects divisions among the clergy itself, if not on the essence of the problem, at least on the appropriateness of attacking the USSR at a crucial point in resistance to the U.S. "great Satan."

The USSR Ambassador's Assurances

For instance, in his sermon last Friday, Ayatollah Khamene'i denounced the "Russian bombs which are killing our children" while Ayatollah Rafsanjani, parliamentary speaker and also an IRP leadership member, said that he is satisfied with the assurances of neutrality given by the USSR, adding, in almost identical terms to those used by Mr Bani-Sadr, that there is no reason to believe that Moscow is sending military equipment to Baghdad.

Soviet Ambassador in Tehran Vinogradov is at present making great efforts to plead the Kremlin's good faith in meeting with various leaders. The remarks he made to Mr Bani-Sadr, Ayatollah Rafsanjani and Prime Minister Raja'i are virtually the same. He hinted that the USSR disapproves of Iraq's military initiative, that it made this clear to Baghdad, notably through Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz "who visited Moscow at his own initiative" at the beginning of the war and who--the diplomat pointed out--was only received by the deputy foreign minister.

According to his interlocutors Mr Vinogradov was categorical on two points: The USSR has stopped supplying arms to Iraq; and it is prepared to supply "aid to Iran in all spheres, including the military sphere" if Iran so requests. Mr Raja'i immediately rejected the offer, retorting that "our republic's independence is more precious than anything which you can give." The account of the meeting, published unilaterally by the prime minister's office, disregards therules of conventional diplomacy. Mr Raja'i indulged in a violent indictment of Soviet policy in Iran, in rather unpleasant terms, going back to Mossadeq's days in the early fifties.

Judging from the published text, the main part of the conversation--which was, in principle, supposed to deal with the Iranian-Iraqi war--turned into a violent diatribe against the "Soviet aggression in Afghanistan" and the "unpopular nature" of Mr Babrak Karmal's regime and against the "hypocrisy of the ideas of historical materialism."

"We Want To Be Your Friends, But...."

Mr Vinogradov apparently kept his cool but ended the interview with a scarcely disguised warning: "We want to be your friends. But do not forget that we have a common border stretching over 2,500 km. Have you considered who would benefit from the continuation of conflict problems?"

Tudeh Party General Secretary Nurredin Kianuri said that he is "saddened" by the "failure to understand" the Soviet attitude shown by "some leadership circles," and reserved his criticism for "liberal" leaders (a pejorative term in Iran used to describe the right) such as Mehdi Bazargan, (former prime minister), and Ibrahim Yazdi, (former foriegn minister), who respectively run the dailies (MIZAN) and KEYHAN. These newspapers were behind the anti-Soviet campaign. "These two newspapers," Mr Kianuri told us, "conform to the line laid down by Mr Brzezinski, President Carter's main adviser...."

The Tudeh general secretary thinks that the USSR has adopted a clearly pro-Iranian attitude. As proof of this he pointed to the Kremlin's avowed neutrality in a conflict which involves one of the Soviet Union's allies. "Normally," Mr Kianuri pointed out, "the USSR should have given wholehearted support to Iraq to which it is linked by a treaty of friendship and mutual aid; it should have thrown its full weight behind Baghdad as it did with Afghanistan, Egypt and Vietnam, with which it had concluded similar alliances."

Like the Iraqi Communist Party, the Tudeh, in its legal press, vehemently denounces Mr Saddam Husayn as a "U.S. agent" and "the Near East's new As-Sadat," suggesting that Iraq, like Egypt before it, has crossed from the "anti-imperialist" camp to the U.S. camp.

[Question] In that case, why does the USSR not publicly denounce the "Iraqi aggression" as many Iranian leaders are demanding?

Mr Kianuri replied: "The Soviet Union cannot do that because having international responsibilities, it is, as always, trying to limit regional armed conflicts which pose the threat of deteriorating into world war. In the 1970-1971 Indo-Pakistani war it similarly refrained from condemning the Islamabad government which had sparked off hostilities and which, in addition, had bad relations with Moscow."

The Tudeh secretary general spoke at length about the recent intensification in trade and in technical and economic cooperation between Tehran and Moscow, and about the potential support the USSR would be capable of giving the Iranian war effort and then asked this question: "Who but U.S. imperialism is benefitting from some people's attempt to poison relations between our two countries?"

Statements made by Mansur Farhang, former ambassador to the United Nations and now President Bani-Sadr's adviser on international relations, are diametrically opposed to those made by Mr Kianuri. In an interview to the press on Tuesday 7 October which created quite a stir, Mr Farhang revealed that he had sent a long memorandum to parliament urging it to release the U.S. hostages and suggesting reviving the "Waldheim commission" for conciliation, which had been forced to break off its mission last spring.

An Interview Which Caused a Stir

"It is the hostages affair," Mr Farhang told us, "which largely contributed to our isolation in the international arena, thereby encouraging the Iraqi aggression which no state in the world has condemned. We must end this affair, especially since it is helping one political group to monopolize power within the Islamic Republic."

Mr Bani-Sadr's adviser is convinced that no good can be expected from the Soviet Union. "We have proof that Russian weapons are reaching Iraq through the port of Aqaba and even through Kuwait. Of course, the USSR has offered to equip our army, but that would serve no purpose since it is impossible to adapt our U.S.-type military infrastructures in the middle of a war. We must be realistic and draw conclusions from the objective conditions in which we find ourselves," Mr Farhang concluded.

In practical terms this task seems difficult at present. There is no foreign minister since Mr Sadeq Qotbzadeh's voluntary resignation, the Islamic Republic of still ruled by several decision-making centers, and its policy is drawn up in turn or simultaneously by Imam Khomeyni's personal office, President Bani-Sadr's "brain trust" and Mr Raja'i's government, appointed by parliament.

In debates of national importance, the imam often intervenes to arbitrate. At present he is the leader who could answer the question of whether the USSR is or is not neutral in the Iranian-Iraqi conflict.

ARRESTED FRENCH NEWSMEN INTERVIEWED ON IMPRESSIONS OF WAR

LD091037 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 5 Oct 80 p 12

[PARS interview with three unnamed French newsmen arrested in Khorramshahr--date of interview not given]

[Text] According to a report by a special PARS correspondent at the war front, three Frenchmen claiming to be correspondents from FRANCE SOIR, Radio Europe and Radio Luxembourg were arrested in Abadan. The PARS interview with these Frenchmen was as follows:

[Question] Why did you enter the Iranian war from Iraqi territory?

[Answer] We were in Paris and we applied to the Iranian Embassy for visas. Since communications with Iran were out and we were unable to obtain visas, we got visas for Iraq and Kuwait and set off for Baghdad, where the Iraqi Government told us that Khorramshahr and Abadan were in Iraqi hands. We said that we were prepared to go and see at close quarters. They put it off for several days, and then finally allowed us to go. We took a taxi and said we wished to go to the war front. At Khorramshahr we were intercepted by armed men and we surrendered. There were only two revolution guards and the driver also surrendered saying: "I am Muslim and I like Khomeyni." We walked one kilometer to the post. We understood that the Iraqis had lied to us and that Khorramshahr and Abadan were being held by the Iranian forces.

[Question] What did you see in Abadan?

[Answer] We saw a number of dead civilians; 50 were killed last Tuesday. A bomb had exploded in the center of Abadan also. All the people are prepared for battle, and if the Iraqis want to enter Abadan and Khorramshahr they will not be able to do so, since although the Iraqi Army is a modern one, the Iranian people are revolutionary and Islamic and are ready to defend their country and honor to the last.

[Question] What did you see in Ahvaz and how were you received?

[Answer] We saw Iraqi prisoners of war being very well treated, as we were to.

[Question] What do the Iraqi people think of this war?

[Answer] The Iraqi people do not like this war; they call it "Saddam's war" and not the people's war. Television constantly tells them that this is a war between Arab and Persian, but the people believe that it is a fratricidal war.

[Question] How many days were you in Baghdad?

[Answer] One of us was there for 1 day and the other two for 3 days.

[Question] Did you observe maneuvers [presumably "movements"] by the Iranian Air Force and did you see any Iranian planes shot down while you were there?

[Answer] We saw the Iraqi air defense. We did not see Iranian aircraft, but at Abadan we saw part of a crashed MiG. The Iraqis have invited a large number of foreign newsmen in but they are not allowing them to go anywhere, and they themselves feed them with news.

[Question] Did you see Iranian aircraft bomb civilian targets?

[Answer] Iraq claimed that the Jomhuriyeh hospital in Basra was bombed by Iran, but we were in Basra for 3 days when the hospital was destroyed and we did not see Iranian aircraft in the skies above Basra.

[Question] In your view, which side will finally win this war?

[Answer] In our view, because of the revolutionary Iranian people, Iran will win. We do not think that Iran will make peace unless the Iraqi Army withdraws totally from Iranian territory.

[Question] What was the state of the town of Basra?

[Answer] It was at a total standstill, with martial law in force from 1800 hours until the morning. The refinery was on fire and belching smoke.

[Question] What about the propaganda put out by the Iraqi Ba'thist government?

[Answer] On radio, television and in the newspapers, they were saying that the Iranians are racists, and one newspaper announced that Khomeyni had died.

BBC REPORTS 'STALEMATE' IN KHORRAMSHAHR

TA091543 London BBC World Service in English 1500 GMT 9 Oct 80

[From "Newsreel"]

[Text] BBC correspondent Michael Vesty today traveled with Iraqi troops to the Iranian port of Khorramshahr, which lies on the Shatt al-Arab waterway. He says the Iraqis are continually bringing up reinforcements on the road to Khorramshahr, and tanks and supplies are arriving in the areas which the Iraqis hold, but the Iranians are still putting up some resistance.

[Begin recording] When I arrived the harbor area clearly showed signs of damage from Iranian artillery. The foreign ships berthed there have also been damaged and some are still smoking. An Iraqi major told me that it was too dangerous to go any further into the town.

He said the Iranian tanks and artillery were positioned across the river bridge in the southeastern part of the town. It was clear from what he said that a state of stalemate exists. He said it would take one more day to dislodge the Iranians, but this is clearly over optimistic, as the Iraqis are unable to make any progress at all at the moment.

It looks as if the battle for Khorramshahr will be a long struggle with the possibilty looming that the Iraqis will be unable to take it. The River Karun, which divides the port from the town, has to be crossed by the Iraqis before they can take it. While I was in the port of Khorramshahr sporadic artillery fire could be heard from the Iranians and the Iraqis, but it was fairly desultory, emphasizing the stalemate that now exists.

The Iraqis say confidently that they are setting their sights on Abadan, but that objective seems as far away as ever. The Iraqis are shelling Abadan from their side of the Shatt al-'Arab waterway. In Khorramshahr port Iraqi soldiers amuse themselves by handing out to visiting journalists shirts, pajamas and golfing hats looted from containers on the quayside and from the damaged ships in port. [end recording]

AFP: OVER 110 KILLED IN IRAQI MISSILE ATTACK ON DEZFUL

NC091619 Paris AFP in English 1554 GMT 9 Oct 80

[Excerpt] Tehran, 9 Oct (AFP)--The first Iraqi missile attack unleashed over Dezful in Iran's oil-rich Khuzestan Province last night killed more than 110 civilians, and injured 70, it was learned here today.

The action betrayed a growing nervousness among the Iraqi leadership, observers here believe.

There were also "numerous victims" reported from Ahvaz, the capital of Khuzestan, as the result of artillery shelling of a railway station.

The Iranian high command so far has not indicated the type of missiles involved in the attack, although it released their specifications which indicated they were Soviet ground-to-ground Frog missiles. The Iranians themselves hold American Hawk missiles in reserve.

Experts consider that neither the introduction of the Iraqi missiles nor stepped up shellings of Khuzestan cities will be enough to extricate the conflict from its present impasse.

The Iranian leadership believes the aim of the Iraqi missile attacks was to scare the inhabitants into deserting their cities, a tactic which it considers is bound to fail.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF ISSUES COMMUNIQUES

159: Ahvaz Explosions Explained

LD091626 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1523 GMT 9 Oct 80

[Communique 159 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name, the Muslim struggling residents of Ahvaz are hereby informed that following an air raid carried out by Iraqi planes, a small amount of ammunition has been found on the ground. Some has exploded and the repeated sounds of explosions are from them. There is no cause for worry and no danger threatens the noble residents. The residents of Ahvaz are requested to keep calm and perform their normal duties.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

160: PRC Ship Hit

LD091644 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1556 GMT 9 Oct 80

[Communique 160 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. According to reports from the Navy of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Chinese merchant ship (Jialing Jiang) was hit by artillery fire of the Iraqi Ba'thist army on 5 Oct in Khorramshahr. The 16 officials in charge of the ship were rescued by navy personnel of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and by gendarmerie, and were transferred to Tehran.

At 1000 yesterday they were taken in good health to the PRC Embassy in Tehran by a navy official. Two passengers from this ship who were injured are receiving treatment in hospital and will soon be taken to the above-mentioned embassy.

The PRC Embassy has expressed thanks to the personnel of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

161: 23-27 Sep Fighting

LD092307 [Editorial Report] Tehran Domestic Service in Persian at 2109 GMT on 9 October carries Communique 161 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The communique gives an historical account of the military operations successfully carried out by the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic during the period 23-27 September.

162: Draftees Serve Where Sent

LD100515 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 10 Oct 80

[Communique 162 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. All the eligible and self-sacrificing offspring of the fatherland who are called up to perform their sacred national service are hereby notified that they should serve in any area that the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, with regards to the country's interests, determines.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

RADIO ANNOUNCEMENTS TO TABRIZ CITIZENS REPORTED

Red Alert Warning

GF091559 Tabriz Domestic Service in Persian 1553 GMT 9 Oct 80

[Text] [sound of siren] Esteemed listeners: The siren you have just heard is the red alert warning indicating that there is a danger of an air attack. Please comply with all red alert regulations. [message repeated in Azerbaijani]

Lights Not Turned Off

GF091631 Tabriz Domestic Service in Azerbaijani 1625 GMT 9 Oct 80

[Text] Esteemed listeners: As you are all aware, condition red still is on and although we have been repeatedly urging everyone to turn off all lights there are still certain areas with lights on. If this persists we will have no choice but to cut off all power throughout the city.

White Condition

GF091711 Tabriz Domestic Service in Azerbaijani 1708 GMT 9 Oct 80

[Text] [sound of siren] Attention, please, attention: The siren you have just heard indicates that the red alert condition is over. You can leave your shelters.

TEHRAN CITIZENS REQUESTED NOT TO OBSTRUCT EMERGENCY VEHICLES

LD091732 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Oct 80

[Communique No 140 of the security headquarters of the Interior Ministry]

[Text] In His exalted name. It has often been observed that immediately after an attack by the enemy, some fellow citizens go to the scene of the incident and assemble there. This hampers and delays relief and aid operations for the injured, such as ambulances and fire engines. Therefore, all dear fellow citizens are requested to refrain from doing so. Also, police personnel and the Guard Corps of the Islamic Revolution should close the streets leading to the scene, especially in the case of Mehrabad Airport, and Azadi Square and its surrounding streets and people and any motor vehicles should be kept away, so that fire-fighting units and ambulances can move about and carry out their duties.

[Signed] The Tehran security headquarters

'RADIO IRAN' COMMENTS ON INTERVIEW WITH BAKHTIAR

NC091646 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 9 Oct 80

[Station commentary]

[Text] Mr Giscard d'Estaing's government did not deem it advisable to allow an Iranian to offer his views on the situation in his homeland and on the war which has been imposed on his compatriots to the French radio, to the world and to the Iranians. It is true that this Iranian is called Shahpur Bakhtiar. He is the leader of the national resistance of Iran, his only supporters are the Iranian national forces and his own international prestige. He has not taken hostages from any government. He does not have the concessions to Iran's oil and Khomeyni and his clique are determined to murder him.

Khomeyni and his clique are the same persons who 2 years ago, in this same France, were preaching suicide and destruction to the Iranian nation through the mass media. It is true that the hospitality extended to Khomeyni had been advised to Giscard d'Estaing by Carter's special envoys, and today, too, both Carter and Brezhnev are looking after him and the French residents of Iran too are potential hostages of the Islamic Republic regime. [sentence as heard] At any rate, according to Shahpur Bakhtiar, it became obvious that bullying and law-breaking is not without supporters in Europe.

Being informed of the ban on Shahpur Bakhtiar's interview with (?France-interne), we had a short telephone conversation with him which you heard.

It was very difficult to establish contact with Paris and for fear of a break in contact we spoke as shortly as possible. But even this short conversation said a lot. He replied to a number of [words indistinct] questions.

Bakhtiar clearly said: There is no war and there should be no war between the Iranian nation and the Iraqi nation because there is nothing which can be a cause for (?controversy) between these two nations.

The truth and reality which lies in this statement [words indistinct]. There should not be a war between nations. That which imposes bloodshed and fratricide on the people is a desire for power, [words indistinct], colonialism and [words indistinct]. The responsibility for the painful and destructive war which has drawn Iran and Iraq to fire and blood lies with the Tehran regime which, with its lust for power and methods of conquest and its feeling of revenge, paved the grounds for this calamity.

On this topic, Shahpur Bakhtiar says: by destroying our culture, our army, our freedoms and all that which the revolution was made for; with bloodshed, aggression, cruelty and economic failure; with a (?lack) of policy and the creation of an international isolation, the preparations for the present situation were made. Instead of ensuring comfort, happiness, freedom and welfare, they established adversity, calamity, backwardness and lack of security in our country.

Naturally, each alert patriot, by seeing that which is happening under the deadly garb of the Islamic Republic in Iran, concludes, as does Shahpur Bakhtiar, that this regime should be uprooted. Whoever thinks contrary to this will be, perforce, prolonging the era of our adversity, calamity, backwardness and insecurity.

In Shahpur Bakhtiar's opinion, however, neither the reality that the flames of war were lit by Khomeyni's machinery nor the definite duty that such a machinery should be dismantled means that Iran's territorial integrity can be transacted. He has repeatedly said that not even one inch of Iran's territory should be (?handed) to any government, under any pretext or at any price. In his remarks today he once again firmly stressed the nontransactibility of Iran's integrity. This remark was not uttered with blind patriotic fanaticism, it is a manifestation of a feeling of respect for Iran and it accents the need for independence and the strength to guard this independence. It also means that neighborly relations cannot and should not be placed on the principle of force and the use of armed forces. Iran and Iraq are neighbors and, even if they did not have any one of the historic and cultural bonds which tie them, they are condemned to live next to each other and this life should be based on trust and friendship. Throughout the war Baghdad has repeatedly stressed that it does not covet Iran's territory. Prior to this Shaphpur Bakhtiar had repeatedly said that the two countries' differences, whatever they may be, can be ironed out through negotiations.

In order to end the bloodshed, to prevent enmity and spite, in order to save Iran, its independence and integrity, in order to reconstruct Iran and to make it a country which will live peacefully in the world and with its neighbors, there is no other alternative but to overthrow Khomeyni's regime.

It is not without reason that Shahpur Bakhtiar says: I am first a human being, then an Iranian and then a Muslim. An understanding of the common problems faced by humans is impossible outside the framework of humanity. Human contact cannot be established without a national identity and without having (?roots in a country). Only a human being with an identity can freely choose his faith, and the antihuman, anti-Iranian and anti-Muslim regime of Khomeyni, if allowed to stay on, will make us alien to our humanity, our nationality and a large part of our culture. This is the gist of Bakhtiar's message.

NVOI COMMENTS ON INTERNATIONAL, DOMESTIC ISSUES

26 Sep Commentary

TA261821 [Editorial Report] The clandestine National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 26 September carried a commentary entitled: "Let Us Overcome the Difficulties by Maintaining Unity of Word and Action and by Respecting the Right of Freedom of All the True Forces of the Revolution." It said: Recently in a meeting with members of the new Cabinet Imam Khomeyni urged the ministers to be the servants of the people and to solve their problems, especially the problems of the poor and the deprived. The imam also said that the people are facing serious difficulties created by the counter-revolution and that the ministers should exert all their efforts toward solving these difficulties.

One of these problems is the attacks on the offices of progressive parties and organizations and their occupation by clubwielders, attacks on the offices of their newspapers and the burning of bookshops. Unfortunately, the country's officials have kept silent in the face of these illegal and counterrevolutionary acts and are thus weakening the true forces of the revolution. In the present conditions when border clashes have been imposed on our country, unity of word and action are more necessary than ever in order to foil the plots of U.S. imperialism and the elements.

29 Sep Commentaries

TA292120 [Editorial Report] The clandestine National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 29 September carried two commentaries.

The first commentary was entitled: "In Every Anti-Iranian Plot, the Hand of the United States Is Seen." It said: World-devouring U.S. imperialism and the oil cartel are directing their efforts to create discord among the OPEC countries. U.S. imperialism has always feared the unity among developing countries, since such a unity is the key to solving their problems and a guarantee for their victory in their struggle against international pl nderers and the gendarme of the world: world-devouring U.S. imperialism.

After the victory of the Iranian revolution, such a blow has been inflicted on U.S. imerpialist's interests that these interests have been placed under a question mark not only in Iran but in the whole region. This is the reason U.S. imperialism is trying to regain its lost interests by thwarting the revolutionary gains of the Iranian nation and trying to overthrow the Islamic Republic either by resorting to direct aggression or with the help of its stooges in Iran or the region.

We are all aware that U.S. imperialism is increasing its naval forces in the Persian Gulf region and is creating new military bases in Egypt and Oman, because the most important factor for U.S. imperialism in this region is its oil riches. If we want to speak seriously of interference in domestic affairs of countries, of numerous plots against countries of our region, we must then especially speak of the interventions and plots of the U.S. superpower, not of the alleged superpowers in general. As we have seen the problem of the U.S. hostages is merely an excuse for hatching coup d'etat plots and threats against the Islamic Republic.

The great victorious Iranian Revolution has shown that it was able to overthrow the stooge regime of U.S. imperialism and put an end to the plots of the United States and her Western allies. It was able to nationalize the oil wealth and declare its sovereignty over its natural wealth. The Iranian nation will defend its independence and revolutionary gains against any plot of U.S. imperialism and her hirelings.

The second commentary was entitled: "U.S. Imperialism and its Accomplices Are Mistaken." It said: U.S. imperialism and its fifth column inside Iran and abroad have great hopes and expectations for the war imposed on our homeland. It is said that Bakhtiar, Zahedi, Palisban and other former regime elements are overjoyed by the military assault against our country, so much so that they have put aside their deep differences.

The thing that we should say to U.S. imperialism and her mercenaries is: "Gentlemen, you have been mistaken and there is not the least doubt that you will carry this hope to the grave." But it is obvious that U.S. imperialism and her fifth column have not stopped even for one second from hatching plots to overthrow the Islamic regime. Actually, thousands of former regime soldiers are being trained abroad for an assault against our homeland. In these sensitive times, counterrevolution inside the country is busy making efforts to inflict blows on the revolution and its gains.

Since the victory of the revolution, U.S. imperialism has overtly resorted to aggression and coup plots against our liberated homeland on eight occasions. Even Carter has said that he will not give up Iran at any price. "In the war imposed upon our liberated homeland, the bloody hand of U.S. imperialism is completely obvious." According to many irrefutable documents and witnesses, the United States had a direct hand in the outbreak of this war. This is a fact that even the U.S. press has confessed. Political observers directly connect the war in Iran with the visit by a high-ranking U.S. commission to Saudi Arabia, and think that the aim of this trip was to prepare the grounds for some plans for direct U.S. intervention in the affairs of Middle Eastern countries and especially Iran. In addition, Saudi Arabia is a country that has been plotting against the existence of the Islamic Republic from the very beginning, along with U.S. imperialism. The very close cooperation between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan is, more than anything else, plotting against our liberated homeland and our next door neighbor, Afghanistan, as well as other independent countries of the region.

U.S. imperialism is the number one enemy of our liberated homeland and, as Imam Khomeyni has recommended, all efforts should be directed against this arch-Satan and its accomplices.

30 Sep Commentaries

TA302036 [Editorial Report] The (clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 30 September carried two commentaries:

The first commentary was entitled: "The New Tunes of U.S. World-Devouring Imperialism." It said: In connection with the recent events and the war that has been imposed on our homeland, the black forces of reaction in the region and their imperialist masters, especially U.S. imperialism have been strongly [word indistinct]. U.S. imperialism which has continuously been looking for a pretext in order to resort to a military intervention or hatching plots against the Islamic Republic, right now in addition to its previous excuses, has brought forward the question of oil export in order to carry out its vast plots. Visits and talks by U.S. officials on the one hand and the officials of Western countries and Japan on the other, on allegedly "protecting the security of the Persian Gulf and the security of oil exports," are still continuing. According to statements by some circles close to the U.S. aurhorities which have been published in the Western press, it arises that this time, U.S. imperialism intends to resort to military intervention, saying that allegedly the export of oil has been endangered.

For U.S. imperialism and its officials, the obstacle presented to the export of oil is the Islamic Republic and its revolution, since up to the day the former regime, stooge of U.S. imperialism, was in power, there was no talk of such a danger.

After the victory of the Iranian Revolution, the Iranian nation has put an end to U.S. imperialism and other Western nations "securing" their plunderings of Iran's oil and natural resources. Liberty and security according to U.S. world-devouring imperialism and world-devouring Western nations equates with the liberty to plunder other nations. The United States wants neither liberty nor security for nations. It wants the same liberty and security reigning during the former cursed regime to return to Iran, and wants to keep the nations of the region in bondage. Unfortunately despite the imam's statements pointing out the danger of U.S. imperialism threatening our homeland, there are still some elements in Iran who equate friend and foe and speak of all the alleged plots of the East and West. Some of these gentlemen claim that in the clashes between Iran and Iraq, some of the weapons of the Iraqi Army are made in the Soviet Union and had been bought some years ago. (?Can we place the existence) of U.S. weapons at the hands of our armed forces on the same logic? We are passing through sensitive periods, we must mobilize all the true forces of the revolution for the struggle against the masked and unmasked enemies.

The second commentary was entitled: "A Policy Resorting to War as a Pretext of Solving the Problems of the Dispute, Is a [word indistinct] Policy." It said: In the dispute between our country and Iraq the real enemies of our nation, the imperialists in general, are trying to use this event to carry out their satanic plans. For the Carter administration it is not important that the blood of Muslim people be spilled and for the economic bases of these countries to be destroyed. The important thing is to regain her interests in the region. The continuation of fratricide is only to the advantage of U.S. imperialism and to the detriment of the freedom-seeking movements of the region. These events have aroused the concern of the true friends of our nations and this is why all the friends of our two nations want a political solution to the problems of dissention between Iran and Iraq. There exist no problems between the two Muslim countries that cannot be solved through peaceful means. Any power or government resorting to military force to solve the differences is in practice serving the plots and plans of U.S. imperialism.

2 Oct Commentary

TA021813 [Editorial Report] The clandestine National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 2 October carried a commentary entitled: "They Condemn the Preparation of Military Aggressions." It said: According to Western newspapers Preisdent Carter has prepared a plan of aggression against our country in October. The aim of this plan is the overthrow of the regime of the Islamic Republic and the restoration of a regime prefered by the United States and led by people such as Bakhtiar or the shah's son. For this purpose, besides the Diego Garcia military base, the United States has signed agreements with the governments of Oman, Kenya and Somalia for the use of harbors and airfields. The traitor As-Sadat also has agreed to provide the United States with military facilities for its aggressive plans against our homeland. The preparations of military aggressions by the United States to overthrow the system of our Islamic Republic are condemned by progressive countries and peoples throughout the world and are undoubtedly doomed to failure.

4 Oct Commentary

GF041917 [Editorial Report] The clandestine National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 4 October carried a commentary entitled: "Oil and the American Manufacturers of War Materiel." It said: There are 10 large U.S. military complexes which are exporting arms to other nations. Sale of arms by the United States reached $13 billion in 1979. They expect to earn $14 billion this year from arms sales.

The merchants of death in the United States not only make a great deal of profit, but also speed up the arms race in the world and especially in the Middle East. The Carter administration has decided that our region is of vital interest to the United States. These are the interests of oil companies and other U.S. companies which take 450 million tons of oil a year from these countries in the region. This makes up almost half of the U.S. yearly oil needs. The United States, following the overthrow of the shah, not only lost the military bases in Iran but also Iranian oil. Our revolution dealt a blow to U.S. companies as well as the Pentagon.

As we know, the American oil demand increases year by year in parallel with arms deals. Washington is trying to strengthen the neoimperalistic policies with military activities in Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean. The biggest American naval force is stationed in the area, threatening the independence of the oil-producing countries of the Persian Gulf. The Carter administration has actively introduced the U.S. arms merchants into this region for the sake of Middle East oil. According to U.S. Defense Secretary Brown, $50 billion have been allocated to assure a continuous flow of oil to the United States. It is obvious that the U.S. plots in the Persian Gulf involve the Pentagon's chief contractors, the arms manufacturers. All these facts make it obvious why some of the countries in the region such as the Saudi regime spend hundreds of billions of petrodollars giving a chance to the U.S. companies to bring their plots into reality and to make a great deal of profit. By purchasing U.S. arms Saudi Arabia continues to be further dragged into American aggressive policies in the Persian Gulf, jeopardizing its independence and that of the other countries of the region. Seeing the danger, OPEC countries must coordinate their policies toward a struggle against U.S. domination of the area.